



00862.023319

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Ken MATSUMOTO) : Examiner: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/ 718,678) : Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: November 24, 2003)
For: TRANSPORT APPARATUS) :
) January 21, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the Japanese patent documents are also enclosed.

Japanese patent document numbers 2001-133960 and 2001-133961 are discussed on page 9 of the subject specification. Japanese patent document number 2001-133960 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,593,034 and U.S. patent application publication number 2003/0207182.

Japanese patent document number 2001-500669 is discussed on pages 10-11 of the subject specification and corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,879,458, No. 6,042,651, No. 6,221,163, No. 6,368,411 and U.S. patent application publication number 2001/0042439.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SEW/eab



FORM PTO 1449 (modified)			ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.023319		APPLICATION NO. 10/718,678		
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE			APPLICANT Ken MATSUMOTO				
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)			FILING DATE November 24, 2003		GROUP Unassigned		
January 21, 2004							
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		US-5,879,458	03/09/1999	Roberson, Jr. et al.	118	715	
		US-6,042,651	03/28/2000	Roberson, Jr. et al.	118	715	
		US-6,221,163 B1	04/24/2001	Roberson, Jr. et al.	118	715	
		US-6,368,411 B2	04/09/2002	Roberson, Jr. et al.	118	715	
		US-6,517,304 B1	02/11/2003	Matsumoto	414	217	
		US-6,593,034 B1	07/15/2003	Shirasaki	430	5	
		2001/0042439 A1	11/22/2001	Roberson, Jr. et al.	95	8	
		2002/0020751 A1	02/21/2002	Matsumoto	235	487	
		2003/0053894 A1	03/20/2003	Matsumoto	414	217	
		2003/0207182 A1	11/06/2003	Shirasaki	430	5	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		5-114540	05/07/1993	Japan			Abstract
		11-109606	04/23/1999	Japan			Abstract
		2001-500669	01/16/2001	Japan			Abstract
		2001-133960	05/18/2001	Japan			Abstract
		2001-133961	05/18/2001	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.